recommendations made in the meeting of the National Board for Wildlife on 17.03.2005 under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, a Task Force was constituted to review the management of Tiger Reserve in the country, which has submitted its report. The Term of Reference of the Task Force are given in the statement.

Statement

The terms of reference of the Task Force

1. Suggest measures to strengthen tiger conservation in the country.
2. Suggest measures to incentivise the local community in conservation of tigers.
3. Suggest measures to incentivise local forest staff posted in sanctuaries/national parks and ensure an effective HR plan for tiger conservation wildlife managers.
4. Suggest measures to improve the methodology of tiger counting and forecasting.
5. Suggest methods of transparent professional audit of wildlife parks and placing data on tiger conservation in the public domain.
6. Suggest a new wildlife management paradigm that shares concerns of conservation with the public at large.

Private participation in afforestation

†1229. **SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI**: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government do not have sufficient land to meet its requirement for afforestation and plantation;

(b) if so, its consequence on the plan of afforestation and plantation on the one third area of total land in the country by the year 2012;

(c) whether Government propose to get participation of private institutes in this plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As per State of Forest Report 2003 prepared by Forest Survey of India, the Forest and Tree Cover of the country is 23.68 percent. It follows from the above figure that approximately 30.7 million hectares of additional cover has to be added to bring 33 percent of the geographical area of the country under Forest and Tree cover. The Wastelands Atlas of India 2003 prepared by National Remote Sensing Agency and Ministry of Rural Development indicates that 55.27 million hectares of various categories of wastelands are available. The extent of available wastelands would suffice for additional afforestation of plantation needed to achieve the above 33 percent Forest and Tree cover target.

(c) and (d) A multi Stakeholder Partnership framework for forestation of degraded lands in the country has been mooted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests to mobilize financial resources from the private sector. The framework for forestation envisages a tripartite arrangement among the State Governments, the local communities, and the sponsor which may be from the private sector.

Encroachment of Kolleru lake

1230. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Kolleru, one of the country's largest freshwater lakes, is encroached and gradually taken over by the aqua mafia;

(b) whether it is a fact that in 1999, its 75,000 acres were declared a bird sanctuary, but the exploitation continued;

(c) whether it is a fact that the illegal fish farming in Kolleru has grown to become a Rs. 900 crore business; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to save the Kolleru?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. As reported by Government of Andhra Pradesh, parts of Kolleru lake are under encroachment.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. 77,138 acres was declared as Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary by State Government of Andhra Pradesh in the year 1999.